



rivers&trails

National
Park
Service



rivers, trails, and conservation assistance program

WILLOW WATER HOLE PROJECT Houston, Texas

Project Goal

Creation of a regional park in a historically underserved community in Houston, Texas, with multiple objectives/uses as a recreational, open space, and flood control facility. Economic development in a blighted neighborhood is an ancillary but vital component of the project goals.

Background

The Willow Water Hole is a tributary of the heavily channelized Braes Bayou, the primary path of flooding caused by Tropical Storm Allison in 2001. Land acquisition was already underway for creation of flood relief/control facilities, including off-channel flood water storage, prior to Allison, and has accelerated since. Thirty homeowners associations, educational, non-profit, and business organizations came together to form the Willow Water Hole Greenspace Conservancy, whose mission is to expand the flood control projects into beneficial greenspace and parks along the Water Hole.

Project Results to Date

- 200+ acres acquired for flood control
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Recreation Grant secured
- Recognition of representative role of the Willow Water Hole Greenspace Conservancy by responsible local government agencies

National Park Service Role

RTCA will provide planning facilitation and technical support to the process, including community outreach advice and support, and support and consultation on the master planning process for converting flood control lands for passive recreation and parks.

Project Partners

- Willow Water Hole Greenspace Conservancy
- Harris County Flood Control District
- City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department

Contacts

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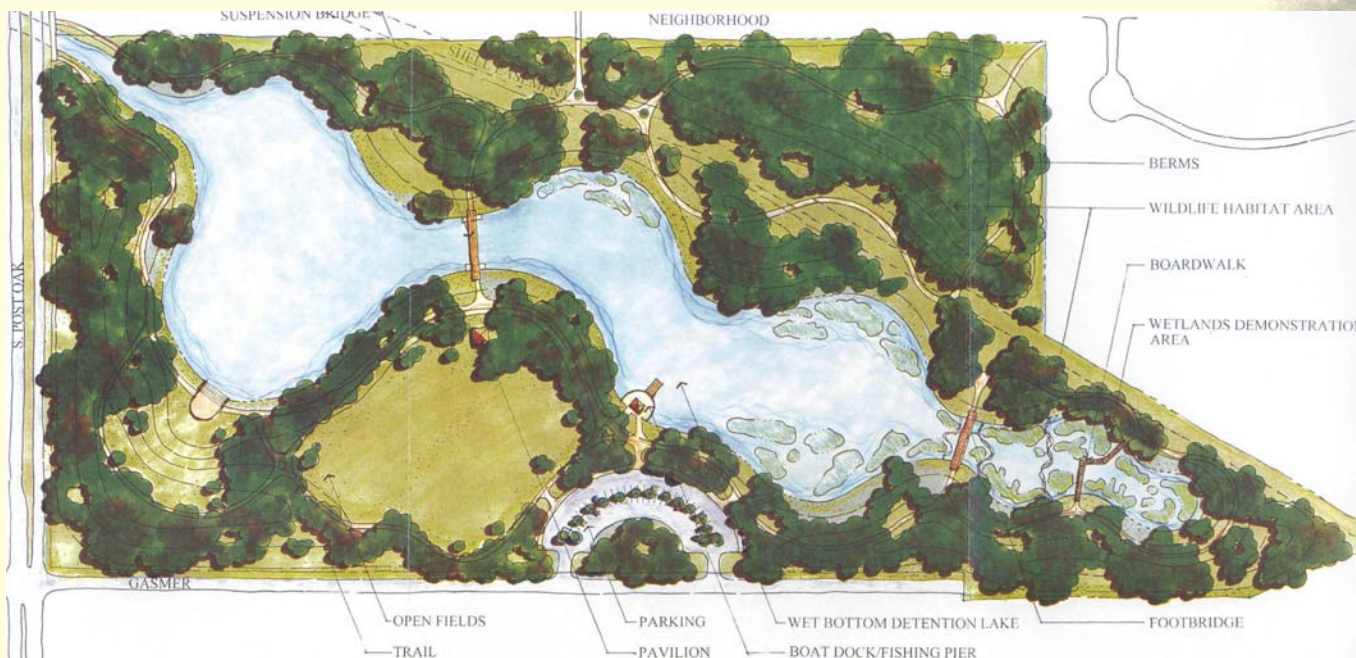
Native Grasses in the Willow Water Hole



continued

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Phase 1 Site Plan for Willow Water Hole Off-Channel Storage



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